

From: Robert
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/21/01 12:28pm
Subject: Microsoft Victory Ripoff

Hello,

I'm very perplexed today after reading in the business section of the San Francisco Chronicle about Microsoft's punishment being reduced to supplying free computers to poor schools. It mentions that Microsoft would supply the software free too.

Um... If it's OfficeXP and Windows XP, which is what is already shipping, then the present cost for the schools is moot. Microsoft's activation scheme and plan for regular "rental" charges for use of their software, which has been widely publicized by them, means in the end the poor schools will be paying Microsoft more money than Microsoft will lose by giving them free software and computers. Secondly, it locks out anyone else from trying to sell to poor schools, such as Linux and Apple. Oh, and did I mention the fact that Microsoft gets a tax write off for this? What is going on?

This kind of deal only puts more money into Microsoft's pocket and expands their market share by giving them a stronger hold on one of the few markets that still has competition--education.

Please defend our California schools from this all-devouring beast!!!

Sincerely,
Robert Biggs

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